



Pinelands Commissioners

New Jersey Pinelands Commission
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The Pinelands Commission is comprised of 15 Commissioners - 7 appointed by the Governor of New Jersey; one appointed by each of the seven Pinelands counties; and one appointed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. The gubernatorial appointees are subject to the review and consent of the NJ Senate. Members of the Commission serve staggered three-year terms and are uncompensated for their service. Commissioners devote significant personal time to their Pinelands duties. The full Commission meets monthly. Additionally, like many legislative bodies, the Commission is divided into various committees, which also meet monthly. Members typically serve on two committees each. There are also regular public meetings ranging from public hearings on specific development projects and regulatory issues to forums and panel discussions on topical issues. Each of these responsibilities may require many hours of review and preparation, meetings with other agencies and stakeholders and consultation with Pinelands staff. To follow are brief biographical sketches of all of the Commissioners.

Betty Wilson, Chairperson — Betty Wilson has devoted most of her life to serving the public and bolstering efforts to protect the Pinelands and New Jersey's environment. She has held elected office at the municipal level as well as a member of the New Jersey General Assembly. From 1976 to 1980 Ms. Wilson served as Assistant Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, handling an array of environmental policy issues including natural resource management, planning and acquisition. There, Ms. Wilson handled Pinelands planning efforts following Governor Byrne's February 1979 signing of Executive Order 71 which established a planning process for the Pinelands and authorized creation of the first Pinelands Commission. She later served as Associate Director for Recreational Programs at the US Department of the Interior. Actively involved in civic and volunteer work, Ms. Wilson has served as Chairperson of the Burlington City Historic Preservation Commission as well as a Trustee of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, Whitesbog Preservation Trust and Family Service of Burlington, among other organizations. She is a summa cum laude graduate of Jersey City State College, now New Jersey City University.

Norman Tomasello, Vice-Chairman — Having served as the Camden County representative on the Commission since 1996, Mr. Tomasello is retired after 50 years of operating a 110-acre fruit and vegetable farm in Winslow Township. Mr. Tomasello served as Mayor and Committeeman in Winslow for 15 years. There, he also served as Public Safety Director and on the township planning board. He is Chairman of the Camden County Agricultural Development Board, and is a member of the County Mosquito Control Commission. He served as president of the Camden County Board of Agriculture for ten years and as Chairman of the Gloucester and Camden County Farmers Home Administration. Mr. Tomasello is a member of the New Jersey Farm Bureau, on which he served as a past Director. He also is a founding member of the Elm Volunteer Fire Company No. 1.

Candace McKee Ashmun — Ms. Ashmun has served as a member of the Pinelands Commission since its creation in 1979. She has also served on the State Planning Commission and as Executive Director and three-term President of the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions. Ms. Ashmun is a trustee of the Coalition for Affordable Housing and the Environment and Vice President of the Board of the Fund for New Jersey. At the local level, she has served on the Bedminster Board of Education, Board of Adjustment and Environmental Commission, and served as Vice Chair of the Far Hills Planning Board. A private consultant to nonprofit organizations, Ms. Ashmun has received numerous awards, including the American Planning Association Distinguished Leadership Award.

William J. Brown — Mr. Brown has represented Cape May County on the Commission since 1981. A licensed insurance agent, real estate broker and certified real estate appraiser, Mr. Brown is the president of the William J. Brown Agency, Inc., a real estate and insurance firm in Marmora. He is the former mayor of Upper Township and currently serves as a member of the community's planning board. Mr. Brown is past Director and President of 1st National Bank of Tuckahoe, and past member and President of the Cape May County Board of Taxation. A World War II Navy veteran, Mr. Brown is retired from 25 years of service as an Engineer at the Woodbine State School. He currently serves as Vice President of Jersey Cape Diagnostic Training and Opportunity Center.

Reverend Dr. Guy Campbell — Dr. Campbell has served as pastor of Evergreen Baptist Church in Palmyra since 1969, during which time the church membership has grown from 60 people to more than 400 families. He serves as the Fourth Vice-President of the National Baptist Convention and is a member of the Convention's Foreign Mission Board. Dr. Campbell serves as moderator of the Bethany Baptist Association of Southern New Jersey and is past President of the Baptist Ministers Conference of Philadelphia and Vicinity as well as the Baptist Pastors' Conference of Burlington County and Vicinity. In addition, the Reverend has held membership in a host of clerical organizations, including the Baptist Ministers Conference of Woodbury and Vicinity and the Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity. A native of South Carolina, Dr. Campbell received his B.A. degree from Trenton State College and a Masters of Divinity degree from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. The Virginia Seminary and College of Lynchburg conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters and the Morris College of South Carolina conferred upon him the Doctor of Divinity degree.

Leslie M. Ficcaglia — Representing Cumberland County since 1996, Ms. Ficcaglia served as a member of the Maurice River Township Planning Board for almost twenty years, including seven as Chair. She serves as Vice-Chair of the Cumberland County Planning Board, member of the County Tourism Council, and trustee of Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its tributaries. Mrs. Ficcaglia is a past trustee for the Association of NJ Environmental Commissions and is now Chair of her township's environmental committee. A professional portrait artist and retired psychologist, she is active in the City of Millville's downtown revitalization project. There, she was the founding chair on the board of the Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts. She has a bachelor's degree from New York University and a master's degree from Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington.

John Haas — Representing Ocean County on the Pinelands Commission since December 2005, Mr. Haas has served as the District Recycling Coordinator in Ocean County for the past 20 years. A resident of Seaside Park, Ocean County, Mr. Haas has worked in the Ocean County Department of Planning and Solid Waste Management for the past 25 years. He also has experience as a former member of the Borough Council, Board of Education and Planning Board in Seaside Park. Mr. Haas served on the steering committee of the ad hoc committee to preserve Cedar Creek and co-authored the committee's report. The report was instrumental in the effort that resulted in the preservation of the Cedar Creek watershed. In 2005 the Solid Waste Management Association of North America recognized Ocean County for having the best recycling program in North America. Mr. Haas holds a bachelors of science degree in biology from Monmouth University and a masters of arts degree in environmental education from Rowan University. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Association of New Jersey Recyclers and on the Board of Trustees of the Barnegat Bay Watershed and Estuary Foundation.

Robert Hagaman — Mr. Hagaman served on the Mullica Township Committee from 1996-2004, including five years as mayor and two years as deputy mayor. Mr. Hagaman, a current member of the Mullica Township Zoning Board, also has served on the Mullica Township Board of Education and as a member of the Weekstown Volunteer Fire Company. Mr. Hagaman is pastor of the Jenkins Chapel in Washington Township, Burlington County. A Korean War veteran, Mr. Hagaman served in the US Army from 1951 to 1955. Retired from a career in construction, Mr. Hagaman has farmed for most of his life and operates a 60 acre hay farm. He has served for three years on the Executive Committee of the Pinelands Municipal Council, an organization comprised of Mayors of the 53 Pinelands Area municipalities.

Stephen Lee — First appointed to the Pinelands Commission in 1982, Mr. Lee is an effective voice for the Pinelands agricultural and land stewardship community. A partner in Lee Brothers, Inc., an 1,800-acre cranberry and blueberry farm in the heart of the Pinelands, he also served on the Board of Directors of Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc. Mr. Lee served for 16 years on the Board of Trustees of Burlington County College, including seven years as Chair. He served as Chairman of the Burlington County Planning Board, as a member of the County Farmland Preservation Committee, and on the Pinelands Environmental Council, an agency which preceded the Pinelands Commission. Mr. Lee chaired a local farm credit bank and served as a founding chair of the parish pastoral council of the Holy Eucharist Catholic Church. He holds a degree in Electrical Engineering from Rutgers and served in the US Air Force and NJ Air National Guard, attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Edward Lloyd — Possessing a strong background in New Jersey environmental law, Mr. Lloyd is Clinical Professor of Environmental Law at Columbia Law School. He previously served for 15 years as Director of the Rutgers University Environmental Law Clinic. Mr. Lloyd is General Counsel and past Executive Director of the New Jersey Public Interest Research Group. He has served on the New Jersey Supreme Court Committee on Environmental Litigation, and has testified before Congressional and legislative committees on issues including energy conservation, solar power, clean water standards and regulations, freedom of information, water supply planning and conservation, and solid waste. A graduate of Princeton University, Mr. Lloyd holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Wisconsin.

Robert W. McIntosh — Mr. McIntosh is the appointee of the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. He has served as a member of the Commission since 1995. Mr. McIntosh is the Associate Regional Director for Planning, Resource Stewardship and Science for the Northeast Region of the National Park Service. Prior to his current position, he served as General Superintendent of the Gateway National Recreation Area in New York and New Jersey, and as Regional Director of Heritage, Conservation and Recreation Services. In addition, he has held various National Park Service policy and management positions in Washington, Philadelphia, Albuquerque and San Francisco.

Patrick Slavin — A Lecturer in Biology at Burlington County College, Mr. Slavin began serving as the Burlington County representative in March 2004. He served for 14 years as manager of agricultural operations for A.R. DeMarco Enterprises, a former 10,000-acre cranberry farm in Woodland Township. Mr. Slavin also served as the Director of Public Health for Cumberland County, Director of the Cumberland County Mosquito Control Commission, as an entomologist with the Ocean County Mosquito Commission and as a Research Associate with the USDA Agricultural Research Service. Among other civic and professional involvement, Mr. Slavin has served on the Board of Directors of the American Cranberry Growers Association, the New Jersey Blueberry/Cranberry Research Council, New Jersey Pesticide Control Council, Woodland Township Planning Board and the Millville Shade Tree Commission. He also worked on the task force which recommended the Maurice River for nomination to the National Wild and Scenic River System. Mr. Slavin holds a Ph.D. degree in ecology from Rutgers University, a Masters degree in entomology from University of Maine and a B.S. degree in Biology from Marquette University in Wisconsin.

Francis A. Witt — Francis Witt began serving as the Gloucester County representative in February 2004. He is a Partner in the firm of Joseph F. McKernan Architects and Associates in Cherry Hill, where he also serves as Treasurer and Marketing Principal. A licensed Real Estate Agent for over 30 years, he has represented a host of US and international companies as a consultant. Mr. Witt has a long career in public service. He served for 16 years as Mayor of the Borough of National Park and, prior to that, served eight years on Borough Council. He is past Vice President of the New Jersey League of Municipalities and past President of the Gloucester County Mayors' Association. Mr. Witt served 15 years on the Board of the Gloucester County Utilities Authority, including as Director and Chairman, and on the board of the Gloucester County Solid Waste Council. Additionally, he is active in a number of civic, business, church and governmental organizations.

Edward A. Wuillermin — Ed Wuillermin has represented Atlantic County since July 2001. A farmer and licensed professional planner, Mr. Wuillermin formerly served with the Atlantic County Planning Department and a professional planning firm. In the latter role, he was responsible for the preparation of the Hammonton Town and Monroe Township master plans as part of the initial Pinelands compliance process. He and his brother own and operate a 250-acre truck farm in Hammonton, specializing in high-quality vegetables. He is a former member of the Atlantic County Agricultural Development Board, where he has served as Chairman. He is the Director of the NJ Tomato Council Cooperative and past Director of the Vineland Produce Cooperative Auction. Mr. Wuillermin is a Hammonton Town Council member and charter member of the Hammonton Planning Board. He is also a member of the Atlantic County Transportation Authority.

The Executive Director

John C. Stokes, Executive Director—Mr. Stokes is responsible for managing the daily operations of the Pinelands Commission and its staff of 59. He reports to and advises the members of the Commission on all matters before them. One of the chief authors of the original Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP), Stokes started with the Commission in March 1980 as an Assistant Director and was instrumental in bringing 52 Pinelands municipalities into conformance with the CMP. Prior to joining the Commission, he served as Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program Director for the US Department of the Interior, Northeast Region. He first joined the Interior Department in 1972, serving in various policy and planning positions in Philadelphia and Washington, DC. In 1979 Mr. Stokes was awarded a National Intergovernmental Fellowship. He has served as chairman of his hometown planning board, as a member of the his town environmental commission, treasurer of the Camden County Council of Girl Scouts, assistant district administrator of the National Little League and member of the Haddon Avenue Transit Corridor Study Committee. Stokes holds a B.S. degree from North Carolina State University. He is a New Jersey Professional Planner and member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

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